critical digest

139 East 47 St. NY 17 NY
EL 5-6894 T. M. Kraus

Sept 19, 1960 Vol XII No 26 The Weekly NYC Theatre Newsletter Digest Service- 11th year- Published 52 weeks a year $25 per year

This Week in NYC

James Thurber entered cast of J. Thurber Carnival in the "File and Forget" sketch portraying himself at work with a book sending publisher. The author joined Actors Equity and will probably remain in the revue until show starts tour in Wilmington Nov 2. Eddie Mayehoff who had succeeded Tom Ewell during show's Central City, Colo. summer visit in Aug left over past weekend due to disagreement with the producers. Rest of male cast divided skits Mayehoff appeared in.

Plays

Vintage '60 planned to close after its second performance, but due to a steady box-office sale decided to continue... Hurricane "Donna" cut Broadway theatre business harshly Mon nite. Most shows offered to exchange tickets patrons were not able to use... Kukla, Burr and Ollie presentation of Burr Tillstrom's puppet characters to be presented Nov 2 at Emerald Room of Hotel Astor by Cheryl Crawford- Joel Schenker. Performances will be held Wed to Sun nites with two matinees for children on both Sat & Sun. Room will seat 200... Becket to give week of paid previews in place of out of town tour... The Best Man to present three matinees New Year's week.... Mary Mary a new play by Jean Kerr to be presented this spring by Roger Stevens.

Players

Carol Taylor continues to sub for Carol Lawrence, West Side Story, latter became ill after taping Play of Week "The Dybbuk."... Maurice Baquet, French star, replaced Pierre Olaf, La Plume de ma Tante, latter left to make US film. New sketch "Prof. Dorchischtrump & 'Cello" by Baquet replaced "Ballet Moderne."... Otto Kruger to depict President of US in Advise and Consent, Ed Begley switched roles and will now portray Orrin Knox... Bernie West, Eli Mintz, Paul Tripp joined The 49th Cousin... Pat Nye added to The Rape of the Belt... Michael Tolan to play opposite Kim Stanley in Taffy... John Justin, British actor, to make NY debut co-starring with Julie Harris in Little Moon of Alban... Cherry Davis to leave Gypsy to join The Hero... Edwin Justus Mayer, 63, author of Children of Darkness died in NY... Queenie Vassar, 1890 musical comedy favorite who starred in The Trip to Chinatown, died in NY at age 89.

NYC Calendar

Here Come the Clowns-Actors Playhouse 9/19. Quartet Productions presents revival of 1938 Philip Barry play staged by Mark Schoenberg with Robert Mandan, Alan Bergmann, Roberta Royse.

The Hostage- Cort 9/20. Leonard Field-Caroline Burke Swann present new drama by Brendan Behan staged by Joan Littlewood with British cast members 's Alfred Lynch, Celia Salkeld, GlynnEdwards.

The Idiot-Gate 9/25. Gate Repertory Theatre presents first production of seven play season. Boris Tumarin- Jack Sydow adaption of Dostoyevski novel, directed by Tumarin with Archie Smith, Kathleen Widdoes, Leonardo Cimino.

Theatre TV Notes

Men in White to be presented on CBS Show of Month Sept 30 with Lee J Cobb and Richard Basehart... Henry IV, Part I Phoenix Theatre production to open season on WNTA-NY Play of Week Sept 26 with Donald Davis, Eric Berry, Nan Martin, Donald Madden... The Velvet Glove to be presented on WNTA NY Play of the Week Oct 17 with Helen Hayes, Jean Dixon. Later in series Julie Harris will appear in He Who Gets Slapped and Eddie Hodges will star in My Heart's in the Highlands.

Theatre Film Notes

Elizabeth Taylor, Jack Lemmon and Charles Laughton to star in film version of Irma La Douce to be made next summer in Paris by Billy Wilder ... Simone Signoret to star in film version of Cherie to be directed by George Cukor next fall.... Loss of Roses film title to be "Celebration."

Award Dept

Albert Quinton chosen by casts of NY Shakespeare Festival company productions for 1960 Ian Keith Memorial Award

Legal Dept

Theatre musicians strike has been averted by agreement on major issues between League of NY Theatres and Local 802, American Federation of Musicians. Items include wage increase, limitations on the summer layoff of productions, welfare fund and rehearsal pay. A three year agreement will be signed when details are settled.

Off Broadway

Between Two Thieves, which had rescinded two earlier closing notices, slated to close after week-end... Top Secret, which had offered public free tickets, closed after 8 performances... Krapp's Last Tape and The Zoo Story twin- bill moved from Provincetown to Cricket.

Call Me by My Right Name, a new play by Michael Shurtleff, casting director for David Merrick, will be presented in Nov by Judy Rutherford, 23 year old secretary at Circle in the Square. Milton Katselas to direct cast headed by Collin Wilcox and Robert Duvall.

She Stoops to Conquer opens the Phoenix Theatre repertory season Nov 1 with Stuart Vaughan directing cast headed by Gerry Jedd, Albert Quinton, Patricia Falkenhain, Donald Madden.

Beatrice Reading, Anne Francine, Phillipa Bevans joined Valmouth ... Viveca Lindfors, J D Cannon signed for When We Dead Awaken... Nick Todd, Charles Frasch, Jane Lambert added to A Delightful Season ... David Atkinson to star in Kittiwake Island ... Paul Dooley to be featured in Darwin's Theories ... Lincoln Kilpatrick to portray leading role in Deep Are the Roots

Living Theatre to present two Mon eves Sept 19 & 29 readings of three one act Yeats' plays--Purgatory, A Full Moon in March, The Herne's Egg.

Equity Library Theatre opens season of American plays Oct 11 with The Skin of Our Teeth. Annual subscriptions and student tickets for entire season of 15 productions are available at Lenox Hill Playhouse, 331East 70, NYC

League of NY Theatres

Annual election meeting of NY League of Theatres will be held Oct 6 at Hotel Astor, NYC. Nomination committee's slate includes--Robert Whitehead, president, Herman Shumlin and Robert Joseph, vice presidents, Gilbert Miller, treasurer, and Robert Griffith, secretary. Current president is Louis Lotito.

((Late News & Reviews--Supplement))

DIGESTS OF CURRENT NYC THEATRE REVIEWS

The World of Carl Sandberg-Miller 9/14. 4 pro - Times, Herald Tribune, Post, Journal American- and 3 con- News, Mirror, World Telegram & Sun- filed on program of readings of Carl Sandberg works adapted and directed by Norman Corwin, presented by Armand Deutsch with Bette Davis, Leif Erickson and Clark Allen. Affirmative agreed Sandberg was not essentially dramatic, but they enjoyed the affectionate, well presented tribute, while negative did not think presentation had enough theatrical interest. Taub - man, Times, found it always vibrant , playful and serious, childlike and wise, homespun and poetic, distinctively American and daringly boundless. Kerr, Herald Tribune, had a minor criticism that Davis started out the evening with her voice at too high a pitch, but otherwise had nothing but appreciation. Watts, Post, applauded impressive tribute done with intelligence and respect. While McClain , Journal American, found spots of vast incomprehension, but thoroughly enjoyed the resplendent Davis who gives the clients the full range of her familiar and flambouyant talents. Dissenter Chapman, News, warned evening was for devotees of Davis, Erickson and Sandberg only, not for the rest who might be in quest of beauty or theatrical emotion. Coleman, Mirror, reporting sellout, enthusiastic cult-like audience, suggested program seems more at home in a hep expresso cafe. Aston, WTS, discovered several interesting segments, but seldom enough emotional contagion. Production is announced for a "limited" run.

Vintage '60- Atkinson 9/12. 3 pro- Post, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun- and 4 con- Times, Herald Tribune, News, Mirror-filed on new revue by Jack Wilson, Alan Jeffreys, Maxwell Grant, staged by Michael Ross, choreographed by Jonathan Lucas with Barbara Heller, Fay de Witt, Mickey Deems, Dick Patterson. Presented in NY by David Merrick with Zev Bufman-George Skeff-Max Perkins, revue originated in April at Ivar Theatre, Hollywood. Affirmative voters applauded performers, but differed on material, while negative voters blamed poor material rather than the likeable performers. Two critics noted first night audience roared its approval. Heading pro side Aston, WTS, cheered boisterous, blatant, witty and funny show that had feel of stainless steel-hard, glistening and right. O'Connor, Journal American, enjoyed delightful show, most of it highly hilarious with enough action and fun to satisfy even a second string critic. Watts, Post, concluded show had some engaging virtues, but it was unfortunate that the results were not satisfying more frequently. Majority of dissenters agreed with Taubman, Times, that only a handful of the 30 numbers were entertaining. Tunes were undistinguished and the sketches often misfired, but the cast was likeable, Times man stated . Kerr, Herald Tribune, thought show lied about its age, the ideas have circles under their eyes. Watt, News, blamed lack of good writers, sketch and song, though he singled out Heller as a girl that good revues will be written for someday. Coleman, Mirror, found material often undependable and in bad taste.

The Dance of Death-Key Theatre (4 St Marks) 9/13. 2 pro- Times, World Telegram & Sun- and 3 con- Herald Tribune, Post, Journal American-filed on new adaptation of August Strindberg play by John Bowman, staged by adapted and pre - sented by Bowman-Voyager Productions-Richard Roffman with Jennie Davis, Abe Vigoda. Two pro notices agreed with con views that production was uneven at best and that the adaptation which cut the script in half lost much of the power of the original. Taubman, Times rated production earnest and intelligent, giving theatregoer a reasonable, if not searching, notion of the original. Aston, WTS, admired couraged and artistic nerve of producer and felt all concerned deserved respect and patronage, including the critic who had to sit on the hard camp chair. Dissenter Crist, Herald Tribune, panned all concerned-editor, actors, director that made an intermitent satire of Strindberg's serious drama. Watts, Post, could see little more than a suggestion of Swedish writer's savage drama, blaming editing for vagueness of narrative details. McClain, Journal American , thought it skillfully produced and acted, but couldn't get interested in drama about tedious and truculent group of characters

INTER-VIEW HI-LITES

MARGARET RUTHERFORD, Farewell, Farewell, Eugene isn't weary of eccentric roles though most of her 100 plays and 30 films feature her in that character, she told Fields, Mirror. There is more latitude in them, eccentrics are always honest and have they own opinions...She is the most proper and convential of ladies off stage, reports Schiff, Post. Her manners are exquisite, her personality modest and her interests retiring, being involved with cooking, gardening and the reading of poetry aloud.

BETTE DAVIS, World of Carl Sandberg, abominates theatre parties and will have none of them during the NY run, she told Chapman, Herald Tribune .They are the greatest tragedy in the American theatre and she insists many other stars feel the same way. The gambling instinct has left the theatre and the investors are looking for security, which they think they can get by big advance sales to theatre parties... Film star had desire for past ten years to find out if she really liked the theatre, she told Silver, News. She played the Sandberg work in 68 cities-tank towns and big cities-and decided she did. Davis discovered that just playing in a different kind of a building was an education.

WALLY STRAUS, actor who left Take Me Along chorus job at $145 per week to join Off Broadway Here Come the Clowns at $45 per week, thinks his action is a healthy thing, he told Harris, World Telegram & Sun. Revival of Barry play has 15 equally divided parts, while most Broadway musicals are only vehicles for the stars.

JULIENNE MARIE, new title player of Gypsy , manages somehow to strip down more or less to a G string without suggestiveness, comments Watson, Journal American. She told him that if you give the audience the feeling that you are having genuine fun with it, then they will have fun with it too.

FAY DE WITT, Vintage '60 , is a curiously earnest comedienne, a pleasant, fast-talking girl who sometimes worries that life may be passing her by, Cleaves, WTS, detailed. She has been working since she was 15, is the thing she enjoys best, but she wantsto develop her mind. In the past she has applied several times to local NYC colleges for admission, but always landed a theatre role before the classes began.

MARGARET BURY, costume designer of The Hostage who doubles onstage as actress Leila Greenwood, is a founding member of the experimental London Theatre Workshop where the Behan play was first presented. Experimental plays are the life of the theatre, but some of these new plays are so horribly depressing, she told a World Telegram & Sun man. Actress-designer believes the main point of all plays should be that it's good to be alive.

DAVID MERRICK believes that California is a great spot to manufacture a revue, he told Ross, Herald Tribune. There is a lot of fresh young talent waiting for a break in TV and the movies. The theatres are small and a producer can get by on small grosses while he is putting a revue together by the process of trial and error. Vintage '60 would have cost $300,000 if originally produced in NY, instead of the $165,000 it cost to move the West Coast originated show.

OUTER BROADWAY

THEATRE LETTER

College------Community---- Summer

Sept 19, 1960 Vol XII No 26 The Weekly Supplement of "Critical Digest"-139 E 47, NYC EL 5-6894-$25 per year for full "CD"Service

College Theatre

12th Annaul Shakespeare Festival of Hofstra College, Hempstead, NY will be presented Mar 17-19. Hofstra Playhouse Subscription Series opens season in Oct with NY City Opera Co. production of "Cosi Fan Tutte."

New Theatres

Tyrone Guthrie Theatre, Minneapolis, named Ralph Rapson, Univ of Minn School of Architecture, to design new repertory theatre which will open in spring 1962, directed by Guthrie.

Theatre and Arts Foundation of San Diego County launched fund raising campaign to build new year round playhouse for La Jolla Playhouse. 16 acre site available. Jo Mielziner will design new theatre which will seat 850.

Winter Repertory

Goodbye My Fancy with Margaret Truman at North Jersey Playhouse, Paramus, NJ visited by Harry Truman.

Drama Schools

Institute of Advanced Studies in Theatre Arts started second NY season with Onoe Baiko VII directing casts of professional actors in workshop productions of Kabuki play Narukami to be presented in English to invited audiences in Oct. He is assisted by Miyoko Watanabo who will also present courses in fundamentals of Kabuki movement and a history of Asian theatre.

Shakespeare

American Shakespeare Festival, Stratford, Conn to present next summer--King Lear, As You Like It and Troilus and Cressida. National tour of A Midsummer Night's Dream and The Winter's Tale opens Sept 26 in Boston. 100, 000 school children in the 17 cities played will get special cut-rate student tickets.

Road Tours

Harry Hickox to portray title role in The Music Man Sept 26 week, while Forrest Tucker vacations.

London

The Tenth Man to be directed by Douglas McWhinney... A Majority of One closed... Settled Out of Court by William Saroyan and Henry Cecil to be presented Oct 19 starring and directed by Nigel Patrick... The Three Caskets a new musical based on casket scene in "The Merchant of Venice" with music by Peter Greenwell, book and lyrics by Gordon Snell to be presented at Players in Oct.

Dublin

Dublin Theatre Festival opened two week season of six new Irish plays and revival of The Playboy of the Western World starring Siobhan McKenna.

New plays presented include ---The Catacombs by Brendan Behan, The Song of the Anvil by Bryan Mac-Mahon, Mourn for the Ivy Leaf by G P Gallivan, Hassan by James Elroy Flecker, The Voices of Doolin' by Walter Macken, The Highest House in the Mountains by John B. Keane.

Future Tryout Tours

Laughs and Other Events-Ottawa 9/23, Toronto 9/26, Princeton 10/3.

The 49th Cousin- Wilmington 10/5, Philadelphia 10/22.

Calendar-Current Tours

Best Man- Alcazar, San Francisco-9/12-24

Duel of Angels-Blackstone, Chicago 9/12-24

Face of a Hero- Walnut, Philadelphia 9/14-24.

Fiorello! - Shubert-Chicago.

Flower Drum Song-Curran, San Francisco

Invitation to a March- Hartford, Columbus- 9/21/24

Irma La Douce- National- Wash-9/12-24.

Laurette- Shubert, New Haven 9/24

Majority of One-Detroit 9/12-24

Music Man- Auditorium-St Paul 9/14-24

My Fair Lady- Playhouse, Wilmington 9/12-24

My Fair Lady-Busnell Auditorium, Hartford 9/19-24.

Once Upon a Mattress- Erlanger, Chicago

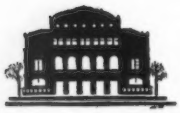
Pleasure of His Company-Stanley, Utica 9/19-20, Paramount, Springfield, Mass 9/21. Olympia, New Bedford, Mass 9/22. Vet. Memorial Auditorium Providence 9/23-24

Raisin in the Sun- Wilbur Boston-

Taste of Honey- Shubert-Cincinatti 9/22-24

Tenderloin-Boston, Shubert 9/19-24

The Wall- Forrest, Philadelphia 9/19-24.



FAMOUS FIRST NIGHTS

Here Come the Clowns-Booth- 12/7/38-2/18/39. 3 pro-Herald Tribune, News, Post- and 5 con- Times, Mirror, World Telegram, Sun, Journal American filed on new play by Phillip Barry presented by Eddie Dowling, directed by Ralph Milton with Dowling, Madge Evans, Leo Chalzel, Russell Collins, Doris Dudley, Bertram Thorn. Play ran 88 performances and preceded Barry's The Philadelphia Story which opened later the same season and played 96 performances.

Diverse views of reviewers centered upon clearness of meaning in script. Many were so interested they paid second visits to the drama writing new reviews, often taking a different stand than their first night notice. Barry himself in the World Telegram the week-end following the opening tried to explain what was to him a very simple play showing a small cross-section of the world with one man, the stagehand, ready and willing to go down in the battle of evil which continues to be fought throughout the world. Play was twice scheduled to close during its run, but both times was continued. Dowling was reported to be accepting no salary for his double actor-director tasks. An Off Broadway revival of the play in 1954 at the Cherry Lane by Theatre Album, directed by Stephen Bates ran 30 performances.

Times-Atkinson- Ashamed to confess I do not understand Barry's conclusions, they are lost in a golden haze of words. When he starts to draw his conclusions his phrases go beyond his dramatic achievements leaving me in a state of frank bewilderment. Performance may be to blame, Dowling does not speak distinctly... SECOND VISIT --12/21/38. Play has been improved in one or two minor details, performances have been notably quickened and clarified. Play now emerges as Barry's finest work. Though his conclusions still bewildering mystic, they are more compactly worded now and spoken with burning passion that is emotionally stirring.

Herald Tribune-Watts- Play that is beautifully written and only partially thought out. It is garrulous and obscure, as bewildering as its people and almost continously absorbing.

News- Burns Mantle- Earnest effort to expose muddled world as testing ground, an earnest, honest, high minded effort. Any play that invites audience to read own meaning into it is never popular.

Mirror-Coleman- Barry's writing so cluttered in mysticism, symbolism that not sure of meaning. Hasn't the lucidity and dramatic vigor necessary for success.

World Telegram- Sidney Whipple- Challenging in its conception, poignant in many scenes, but left me and greater part of first night audience utterly baffled and bewildered.

Sun- Richard Lockridge- Both as playwright and as philospher Barry reveals confusion of mind which robs play of most of its impact. Oddly lacking in lyric qualitywhich must have been author's aim. Acting on whole not very penetrating.

Post- John Mason Brown- A play that you listen to with interest even if not moved by it, must respect author's intentions as much as his writing.

LATE NYC NEWS & REVIEWS

LATE NYC NEWS: White Alice a new melodrama by James Clavell to be presented at Alvin Oct 24 by Roger Stevens, Norman Corwin director... Henry Jones completes cast of Advise and Consent... Inga Swenson replaced Viveca Lindfors in When We Dead Awaken, latter ill from hepatitis ... Arthur Hill to be featured in All the Way Home... Elly Stone and Beatrice Pons joined Valmouth... Nik Belong and Bryan Desmond added to A Delightful Season ... Vintage '60 to add new sketch about Sen Kennedy by Jerry Markel... Twin bill of musical plays by Jay Thompson, The Bible Salesman and The Oldest Trick in the World, will be presented Off Broadway in Nov under title "Double Entry" by Albert C. Lasher-Paul Lehman, directed by Bill Penn. Rosetta LeNoire will star in both, first musical was presented last spring at Broadway Congregational Church.

LEAGUE-MUSICIAN PACT: Three year contract between League of NY Theatres and Local 802, American Federation of Musicians, retroactive to Labor Day, has been released. Items include an increase of pay in musical shows from $155.50 to $170 per week, and in dramas from $109.35 to $119.50, pension plan based on Actors Equity formula starting at 1% contribution of producers the first year going to 3% the third and following years, and summer lay-offs limited to two weeks without pay.

DRAMA MAIL BOX: A memorial tribute of stars of Oscar Hammerstein shows, past and present, doing songs and scenes with tickets scaled at $10 to $1000 could raise over $250,000 in a single night for a theatrical cancer charity, suggests David Garfein, manager of Bernstein's Restaurant to Sylvester, News... Elanor Cody Gould who is presenting a non-Equity revival of Teach Me How to Cry at 169 Allen St writes Sobol, Journal American, that though the production is received glowingly from writers who cover it, it has been ignored by the top critics and columnists and is languishing for lack of support ... Judging from stacks of mail received by Kilgallen, Journal American, Irish Americans are incensed at arrival of Brendan Behan in NY; but columnist draws line at lynching or any other form of assassination as readers seem to demand.

GREEN ROOM DEPARTMENT

7 30 CURTAIN... World Telegram & Sun and Mirror editorials approved of 7 30 PM Wed curtains which began last week. Former hopes it attracts prospective patrons, especially commuters, who now go to shows rarely, reluctantly, or not at all. Latter reported that first try worked well and promises to give a boost to one of NY's most famous attractions. It will make theatre more readily available to commuters and to youngsters who have to watch they school- night bedtimes. Editorial urges producers to start shows on time, waiting for laggards defeats the purpose... Farrell, World Telegram & Sun, noted that Harwyn Club and Barberry Room did a fine business at both cocktail time and after theatre that evening... Winchell, Mirror, reported it didn't help the Stork Club or any of the choice places... Kilgallen, Journal American, thought idea itself laid a big bomb for the shows that were not hits suffered.

ATKINSON THEATRE... Mansfield was formally renamed in honor of Brooks Atkinson, gentleman, lauds Aston, World Telegram& Sun... Could there by anything symbolic in the change of name of a Broadway playhouse from an actor to a critic, wonders Watts, Post.

COLUMN TIPS... Several Negro stars spurned roles in Taffy calling new play a disgrace to their race, whispers Winchell, Mirror... Sophie Loren may do a Broadway musical, hears Killgallen, Journal American... Patty Duke being considered for title role in "Lolita " film, repeats Wilson, Post.

VINTAGE '60 CUES... Barbara Heller and Emmaline Henry were especially recommended by Wilson, Post ... Heller has many of the pixie qualities of Beatrice Lillie, with an added dash of wistfulness, sums Sobol, Journal American... Slocum, Mirror, panned revue's material but cheered the secondary female principals as a group whose all-around charm and good looks may never be equalled.

SECOND GUESSES... Marcel Marceau started the NY season in fine style;no matter what variety and examples of brilliance the 1960-61 season may offer it is doubtful that there will be any more flawless example of artistry on the boards, compliments Watt, News... Aston, WTS, after taking time to digest Marceau's The Overcoat marks it as a masterpiece that will stick to him for days.

EVERYBODY'S A CRITIC... Patrons who took advantage of the free tickets for Top Secret , new Anti-Nazi play which closed after 8 performances at Barbizon Plaza, did not like drama any better than critics, Fox, World-Tele - gram-Sun discovered. 100 of the 550 seats were filled the night covered and audience members found play overdrawn, amateurish, too melodramatic. Original play by 73 year old retired school teacher Ida Lublenski Ehrlich cost her $1000 per week in salaries and $2000 per week in rent.

HITS REVISITED... A Thurber Carnival with James Thurber in the "File and Forget" sketch approved by Calta, Times Author turned actor was as cool as a worker in an air-conditioned office and as confident as youth. There were no signs of nervousness and his timing was perfect.

THEATRE BOOK COMMENTS... "A Wayward Quest" autobiography of Theresa Helburn(Little Brown $5) recommended by Kupferberg, Herald Tribune. If producer had lived it's possible that she might have given her reminiscences a greater sense of detail and an added dimension of depth, he commented.

PROS & CONS BY TMK

H. M. S. Pinafore is a fast-moving, wonderfully acted and sung rendition of the Gilbert and Sullivan classic, pro - fessional and fun in every department. It contains just enough controlled slapstick farce to keep it always interesting and often hilarious. It was so fascinating that the pseudo G & S buffs even forgot to hum along with their favorite songs.

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Vintage '60 is a revue with a talented cast hungry for some funny material. The girls are pretty and witty, but the authors must have hated them because they didn't give any of them a clever number. Except for a single male trio number explaining that the Nazi V bomb experts are helping both the US and the UUSR the sketches and songs lack any guts past the TV comedy level. Most feel it is sufficient to merely mention the target without commenting on it.

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The Sign of Jonah is another in the growing variety of J. B. inspired illustrated non-dramatic sermons posing as theatre. Granted that as first presented in a small German church shortly after World War II it must have been shocking. But the English translation in its over-simplified form, making each point over and over and over again, has slight characterization, less original allegory and little of dramatic interest. The production is of the non-existent variety, consisting of diverse size boxes and platforms which the actors jump between and on for no apparent reason. Many of them shout their lines with such gusto that they spray the first three rows and deafen the first ten.

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Do you think anyone is going to confuse The World of Suzie Wong with the World of Carl Sandberg?

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The excuse for Off Broadway minimum salary to ambitious thespians is the "showcase" aspect. But certainly no actor involved in the defunct Top Secret , panned as much for its sloppy production with cast members forgetting their lines as it was for the play itself, can brag anyplace to anyone that he was in it. Past reviews of efforts by the good intentioned school-teacher producer show that her plays have been vetoed for years . Miracles happen in the theatre, but not that much of a miracle that would turn the latest try of a producer with such a record into a masterpiece. Somebody, agents or Equity, should have informed the actors involved that nothing but bad could come from such an experience.

* *

It seems very unfair that the charming refurbished Brooks Atkinson Theatre will present all kinds of productions, some good - some bad, without the former critic having a hand in deciding which producer the owner should rent to.

* *

Frank Los Angeles newspaper ad for the West Coast production of The Connection quotes L. A. Mirror reviewer as calling it "The most obscene play ever presented." This invites a contest that the wise theatre fan should have nothing to do with. Who would want to see a play twice as obscene as anything!

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Sept 19, 1960 THEATRE FACT CHART-- CRITICAL DIGEST-139 E 47, NYC EL 5-6894

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Theatre Fact Chart presents up-to-minute data on current business and critical reaction on current Broadway and Off Broadway shows. Top week-end prices and opening datres are listed.

SUBSCRIBERS ONLY may write or phone for any other specific critical data and/or for specific critical details of late NYC reviews and Out of Town Tryout reviews.

"C"-Critical- figures refer to percentage of PRO votes filed by 7 NYC daily newspaper reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating evening, not if critic predicted if show would be a commercial hit (earn back investment.)

"B"-Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales last week and indicates current availability of tickets. Figures that follow, all in thousands of dollars, are gross capacity (CAP) and corrected Variety gross estimates of past week and preceding weeks. Thus 100% B- Cap $80--$80-$76 $75- means show was a sellout last week at $80,000, the previous week's gross was $76,000, etc

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BEST MAN Morosco $7/50 3/31/60	235 W 45 CI 6-6230	100% C- 7 pro- 3 raves 95% B- Cap $40--$35 $36 $39 $40 $39
BYE BYE BIRDIE Beck $8.60 4/14/60	302 W 45 CI 6-6363	90% C- 1 Con- Times-rest all raves 100% B- Cap $58--$58 $58 $58 $58 $57
FIORELLO! Broadhurst $9.40 11/23/59	235 W 43 CI 6-6699	100% C- 5 raves-Post, WTS milder book 95% B - Cap $58--$56 $58 $59 $58 $58
FIVE FINGER EXERCISE Music Box $7.50 12/2/59	245 W 45 CI 6-4636	90% C- 1 Con- News- 5 raves 40% B- Cap $40--$15 $16 $18$17 $15 $14
GYPSY Imperial $9.40 5/21/59	249 W 45 CO 5-2412	100% C- 7 pro- J Am milder on book 70% B - Cap $64--$44 $46 $50 $51
LA PLUME Royale $8/05 11/11/58	242 W 45 CI 5-5760	100% C- 6 raves- Times milder 75% B- Cap $45--$32 $34 $38 $34 $32 $36
MIRACLE WORKER Playhouse $7.50 10/19/59	137W 48 CI 5-6060	100% C- 5 raves-Times, WTS milder 95% B- Cap$36--$33 $36 $36 $35 $32 $30
MUSIC MAN Majestic $8.05 12/19/57	245 W 44 CI 6-0730	100% C- 6 raves- H Trib milder 55% B - Cap $70--$36 $43 $47 $45 $41
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger $8.05 3/15/56	235 W 51 PL 7-7064	100% C- 7 raves Play-News OK P Charls 70% B- Cap $70--$50 $55 $59 $57 $53 $50
SOUND OF MUSIC Lunt $9.90 11/16/59	205 W 44 JU 6-5555	90% C-1 Con H Trib- 3 raves 100% B- Cap $75--$76 $76 $76 $76 $76
TAKE ME ALONG Shubert $9.40 10/22/59	225W 44 CI 6-5910	90% C- 1 Con- Mir 2 raves-News, WTS 70% B- Cap $64--$41 $46 $54 $50 $59
TENTH MAN Booth $7.50 11/5/59	222 W 45 CI 6-5969	100% C- 7 pro- 2 raves-Times, News 75% B- Cap$32--$23 $23 $26 $27 $26
THURBER CARNIVAL ANTA $7.50 2/26/60	245 W 52 CI 6-6270	100% C- 6 raves- Mir milder Cap $49- Re-opened last week
TOYS IN ATTIC Hudson $7.50 2/25/60	141 W 44 JU 6-2237	100% C- 5 raves-Times, J Am milder 55% B- Cap $40--$23 $21 $24 $22 $22 $18
VINTAGE '60 Atkinson $7.50 9/12/60	256 W 47 CI 5-1310	40% C- 3 Pro- Post, J Am, WTS Cap $41
WEST SIDE STORY W Garden $8.05 4/27/60	1674 Bway CI 5-4878	100% C- 7 pro on return of musical 75% B- Cap$64--$44 $46 $45 $44 $44 $40
WORLD C SANDBERG Miller $6.90 9/14/60	124 W 43 BR 9-3970	See Digest -Page 2 Cap $33

TV THEATRE PROGRAMS

Sept 30- CBS- Man in White on Show of Month with Lee J Cobb
Oct 22- CBS- The Disenchanted on Show of Month
Oct 24- NBC- Shangri-La on Hall of Fame
Nov 20- NBC- Macbeth on Hall of Fame with Judith Anderson
Feb 7- NBC- Time Remembered on Hall of fame.

"CD" PROS & CONS

PROS: Best Man, Bye Bye Birdie, Five Finger Exercise, Gypsy, La Plume, Miracle Worker, Music Man, My Fair Lady Take Me Along, Thurber Carnival, Toys in Attic, West Side Story

Balcony, Country Scandal, Fantasticks, HMS Pinafore Krapps Last Tape, Leave it to Jane, Little Mary Sunshine Marcel Marceau, 3 Penny Opera

CONS: Sound of Music, Tenth Man, Vintage '60

La Ronde, Sign of Jonah

OFF BROADWAY

BALCONY Circle $4.50 3/3/60	159 Bleecker GR 3-4950	3 Pro- Times, Post, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
COUNTRY SCANDAL G Mews $3.90 5/5/60	131 W 13 GR 3-6800	6 Pro- No Mirror Sat to Thur- No Fris
DANCE OF DEATH Key $3.60 9/13/60	4 St Marks GR 5-9748	2 Pro- Times, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, Post, J Am
FANTASTICKS Sullivan $4.60 5/3/60	181 Sullivan OR 4-3838	5 Pro- 1 Con- H Trib, No Mirror
HMS PINAFORE Phoenix $4.60 9/7/60	189-2nd Av OR 4-7160	7 Pros- Limited 5 week run
KRAPPS LAST TAPE Cricket $4.50 1/14/60	162-2nd Av OR 4-3960	6 Pro- No Mirror
LA RONDE T. Marquee $3.90 5/9/60	110 E 59 PL 3-2575	1 Pro- WTS (rave) 5 Con- All mild (no Mirror)
LEAVE IT TO JANE Sher Sq $5 5/25/59	99-7th Av S CH 2-9244	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE Orpheum $4.95 11/18/59	126-2nd Av OR 4-8140	6 Pro- 4 raves-No Mirror
MAN & SUPERMAN Jan Hus $3.90 8/16/60	351 E 74 LE 5-6310	4 Pro- H Trib, News, J Am, Post 2 Con- Times, WTS
MARCEL MARCEAU C Center $3.95 9/6/60	131 W 55 CI 6-8989	7 Pro-most raves Limited 3 week run
SIGN OF JONAH Players $3.90 9/8/60	115 MacDoug AL 4-5076	4 Pro-Times, H Trib, Post, WTS 2 Con- News, J Am
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys $4.85 9/20/54	121 Chris WA 4-8782	3 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post
LIVING REPERTORY Living $3.45	530-6th Av CH 2-4569	Connection-5 con-1 Pro-Post 7/5/59 Theatre Chance-1 Pro-Post 6/22/60

NYC THEATRE CALENDAR

Here Come the Clowns-Actors Play 9/19
The Hostage- 9/20
The Idiot- Gate 9/25
Christopher's Wonders-Maidman 9/26
Farewell, Farewell Eugene-Hayes 9/27
A Delightful Season- Gram Arts 9/28
Greenwich Village USA-1 Sher Sq 9/28
Irma La Douce- Plymouth 9/29

Provincetown Show-Provinc 10/1
Deep Are the Roots-St Marks 10/2
When We Dead Awaken-4th St 10/3
A Taste of Honey-Lyceum 10/4
Becket- St James 10/6
Valmouth- York- 10/6
Mike & Elaine Revue-Golden 10/8
Laughs & Other Events-Barrym 10/10
The Wall- Rose- 10/11
Kittiwake Island-Martinque 10/12
Darwin's Theories-Mad Av 10/2
Drums Under the Window-C Lane 10/13
Shoemaker & Peddler-East 74- 10/13
Shepers on the Shelf-Blackfriars 10/14
Tenderloin- 46th St 10/17
Face of a Hero- O Neill 10/22
49th Cousin- Ambassador 10/25
Invitation to a March-M Box 10/26
Laurette- Beck 10/27

She Stoops to Conquer-Phoenix 11/1
Rape of the Belt- ANTA 11/2
Kukla, Burr, Ollie-Astor Hotel 11/2
Unsinkable M Brown-W Garden 11/3
The Mousetrap-Maidman 11/5
Period of Adjustment-Hayes 11/10
Open Up Your Heart-11/10
Taffy- 11/15
Camelot-Majestic 11/16
Under Yum Yum Tree-Miller 11/16
Advise & Consent-Cort-11/17
Tree Grows Bklyn-Bar Plaza 11/28
All the Way Home-Belasco 11/30
Donogoo-G Mews- 11/?
Love & Libel- 11/30

Little Moon of Alban-Longacre 12/1
Critic's Choice-Barrymore 12/14
Wildcat- Alvin 12/15
Do Re Mi-St James 12/26
The Tiger Rag-T Marquee 12/?

The Hero- ANTA 1/5
Rhinoceros- 1/5
Showgirl- 1/14
Love & Death- 1/15
I'm With You -2/1
3 Daughters- 2/9
Comedie Francaise-C Center 2/21

This weekly NYC THEATRE NEWSLETTER DIGEST SERVICE-now in its 11th year of service to theatre teachers, students, professionals---college drama departments, community theatres, college and public libraries--presents each week of the year a concise 15 minute summary of all theatre news, comments, reviews, etc--published in the past week's 2100 pages of 7 NYC daily newspapers. Plus weekly "Outer Broadway Theatre Letter" supplement giving exclusive editorial coverage of outstanding College, Community, Summer theatre productions coast to coast. Also free critical research on specific data and/or specific details of late NYC theatre reviews and Out Of Town tryout reviews via mail, phone. $25 per year for full service. Back volumes available from Oct 1956--$25 each.

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